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Diocese Backs Goldberg Plan, Bars Transfers

The following is the text of a letter sent to principals, pastors and chairmen of parish boards of education in the Diocese of Rochester.

Dear Colleagues,

Mr. Goldberg's integration plan for the City School District is, in my judgment, a sound, imaginative and constructive blueprint for education in the city.

We are at a point in history when teaching children to know, appreciate and live with other races and cultures is more important than their knowing the dates and places of history or the theorems of geometry.

It is unfortunate that about one third of the students would need to be bused under the plan. In suburban districts, such busing is taken for granted and is not harmful to the educational program. In this case it is a small price to pay, it would seem, for the opportunity to have school integration and an improved instructional arrangement. We hope in our own planning to search ways of giving children contacts with other children of different races.

Bishop Hogan will soon be writing a pastoral letter touching this subject. In the meantime, he is establishing a policy prohibiting transfers at this time from the city school district schools into parochial schools except for cases where parents are first moving into the parish.

We do not want the Church to be party to efforts to prevent the QIE plan from receiving a fair hearing and having a chance to prove itself. Besides, mass transfers in the middle of a semester could be disruptive of a school's program.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Daniel Hogan
Superintendent of Schools

'Now' Key Word To School Aid

Albany — The state's nonpublic schools need a "now" plan for help in their financial crisis if they are to survive to benefit from long range proposals of assistance under consideration, the New York State Catholic Committee has indicated.

The committee, made up of the state's Catholic Bishops, urged passage of the tuition aid plan, submitted jointly by 17 legislators and embodying one of several means of providing assistance cited by a comprehensive review of the problem by the State Education Department.

"The proposal for tuition aid is the single most effective proposal to meet the current problem," a letter to members of the State Senate from the committee's secretary, Charles J. Tobin, said.

The degree of immediacy of the financial problem that has jeopardized the future of nonpublic school education was noted by the committee which said in the letter:

"Parents and other supporters of Nonpublic Education have reached the end of the road of support—unless meaningful help is given them in their efforts."

The tuition aid plan is being considered by the Assembly and Senate and would provide payments ranging from \$50 to \$350 to parents of children in nonpublic elementary and secondary schools, depending on the family's income. It incorporates the principle of the Scholar Incentive

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Photo by Father Walter Cushman

Father Joseph Champlin, speaking for the U.S. Bishops' Liturgical Committee, addressed Rochester-area priests at Becket Hall on the changes to be introduced into the Eucharistic celebration, Matrimony and Baptism rites next month.

Liturgy to Stress Creativity

By ALEX MacDONALD

A flexible liturgy, permitting priests and parish committees to make a wide ranging choice from many variable texts, will give creative parishes unique characteristics in the future, according to Father Joseph Champlin, representing the U.S. Bishops' Liturgical Committee who addressed five regional gatherings in the diocese this week.

"Parish liturgies for Sunday worship and the Sacraments, like Baptism and Matrimony, will not be 'experimental' nor 'underground' anymore to satisfy the spirit of the congregation," he said.

"From here on all liturgy has an open-ended disposition. We now have freedom to choose from a variety of texts and to depart from rigid rubrics. A parish can keep its liturgy fresh by changing the variables and being creative in rituals which used to be sternly proscribed. But it will take planning."

Father Champlin spoke to clergy conferences in Rochester, Auburn and Elmira and addressed large audiences of Sisters and laity in all three places.

He was the "guest expert" brought in by the diocesan Liturgical Commission in its education program to prepare all parishes for the forthcoming changes to be made in the Sunday Mass liturgy and the Sacraments beginning March 22.

"There are far more changes in the rituals for Baptism and Matrimony and in the unusual contents of the new Lectionary than in the Mass," he said. "But everyone will sense the new spirit in our worship."

Explaining the new Order of the Mass and the changes in the ritual of Matrimony and Baptism, Father Champlin emphasized the "sense of community" which the liturgy highlights.

The new opening of the Mass has a "penance ceremony" reminding all of the "self-centeredness," he stated, which "weakens the bonds that should unite us with one another in Christ."

Regular use of the offertory procession, exchanging of gestures of peace just before communion and improvement in quality participation in singing are other ways of deepening the "community feeling" which should mark good liturgy of the Eucharist, he said.

The rituals for Matrimony now per-

mit such a wealth of variable rubrics and readings that every couple to be married should be encouraged to take time to select for themselves the texts from the Scripture and the prayers and ceremonies they wish to have used in their wedding Mass, Father Champlin suggested.

Parents, too, have a larger role in the marriage ritual: they may now escort their son and daughter in the procession to the altar, if the couple choose.

Responsibility of the parents for

the faith of their child is emphasized several times in the new Baptism rite, the speaker said. And since baptism is the moment when one joins the community of God's people, it is strongly recommended that baptisms take place in the presence of the parish during the Sunday liturgy of the Eucharist.

He was enthusiastic about the new Lectionary containing the Scripture readings for daily and Sunday Masses.

"It will open treasures never heard

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The Saturday Mass Keep a Proper Perspective, Bishop Hogan Cautions

Saturday evening Mass will remove many problems from the crowded Sunday morning pattern of most parishes, but it must not be allowed to hurt the proper significance of the Lord's Day, Bishop Hogan told priests of the diocese this week.

"Necessity, arising from the shortage of priests and from the complexities of our Sunday morning problems," the Bishop said, "have prompted the U.S. Bishops to grant the privilege of fulfilling the Sunday obligation on Saturday night."

But the Saturday Mass, he continued, must not be regarded as "a mere utilitarian concession or a sop to laziness and carelessness."

Addressing three separate meetings of clergy in Auburn, Rochester and Elmira, where diocesan liturgical matters were discussed, Bishop Hogan urged that there be no competition among parishes for Saturday evening attendance. Pastors will be granted permission for the change when detailed reasons are submitted to the Bishop.

"You should carefully explain to your people," he told the priests, "that although Saturday evening and Sunday have always been carefully related in the Church from Apostolic times, the significance of the Lord's Day and the day for their

own spiritual renewal must not be lost."

"Otherwise," he warned, "the Saturday night Mass is going to seem nothing more than a service sandwiched in between a tired weekend and a lazy Sunday with very little sense of consecration and renewal."

The Bishop reminded the priests that the Hebrew Sabbath always extended from the evening before to the evening of the day itself, and that many great feasts of the Christian Church were preceded by previous evening vigils which were celebrated as a part of the feast.

"If a sense of the Lord's Day character of Saturday evening is retained it can be observed as the holy day of the week for many."

"Christ vigorously opposed all formalism in religion," the Bishop said. "He inveighed against man-made norms which through changes of time came to be prejudicial and even even harmful to genuine religious observance."

The Bishop then cited various impediments to good Sunday worship which might be lessened if the obligatory Mass time was extended to Saturday night: the crowding of Masses, the hurrying of the liturgy to

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Annual Renewal Of Priestly Vows Urged by Vatican

Vatican City — (NC) — In a letter urging establishment of diocesan programs of theological studies for ordained priests, the Holy See recommended that each year priests formally and publicly renew their ordination promises, especially the vows of celibacy and obedience.

The Congregation for the Clergy made the recommendations in a circular letter dated Nov. 4, 1969, and published Feb. 9. The congregation said its recommendations were based on a survey among the bishops of the world.

The letter put heavy stress on the choice of professors for the continued training program for priests, saying that selection should be confined to "those who can solve the problems laid before them and not those who raise and increase doubts."

"Those who are accustomed to attack tradition, institutions and the authority of the Church are not suitable to fulfill such a task," said the circular letter. It was signed by John Cardinal Wright, prefect of the congregation.

Published with the letter was the new "Mass of the Christ" for celebration on Holy Thursday by the bishop and his priests. At this Mass holy oils are consecrated and priests reaffirm their promises.

This Mass, issued by the Congregation for Divine Worship, has an entirely new Preface that explicitly restates the doctrine of the ministerial priesthood.

The preface says Christ "not only elevated to the honor of a royal priesthood the people of the redeemed, but in His brotherly love chooses also some men who, through the imposition of the hands, are made participants in His sacred mission."

At the Dutch Pastoral Council in January some participants were reported to have questioned the sacramental character of the ministerial priesthood.

The new rite for Holy Thursday suggests the following questions for a bishop to put to his priests:

"Dearest sons, at this yearly celebration of the day on which Christ the Lord conferred upon the Apostles and upon us His priesthood, do you desire to renew the promises that you made one day, before your bishop and before the holy people of God?"

"Do you desire to be more intimately united to the Lord Jesus, and more like Him, renouncing yourselves in the joy of your consecration through celibacy and through obedience to your bishop?"

"Do you desire to be faithful dispensers of the mysteries of God through the Eucharistic celebration and the other liturgical acts, faithfully fulfilling the ministry of preaching, imitating Christ as the head and the pastor, without self-interest and concerned solely with zeal for souls?"

Variations of the basic formula may be used.

Largely because of requests from missionary bishops who would be hard pressed to assemble a cross-section of their far-flung clergy, the Holy See has suggested that this rite may be carried out on several dif-

ferent days and in different places. Another difficulty pointed out stems from the many liturgical and pastoral duties priests have on Holy Thursday.

The new ritual provides for the active participation of the laity in the renewal of the priests' promises.

After the priests renew their commitments, the bishop may turn to the people and say:

"And you, dearest children, pray for your priests. May the Lord pour upon them the abundance of His gifts so that they may remain faithful ministers of Christ, the high priest, and lead you to Him, the only font of salvation."

The people reply: "Christ, hear us. Christ, grant us this."

Bishops Offer Latin Help

(From Courier-Journal Services)

Miami, Fla. — The bishops of the United States, Canada and Latin America have offered to apply their "resources" to the solution of "problems related to integral human development" in Latin America.

"We urge the creation of those conditions which will facilitate the exercise of human rights..." a statement from the inter-American bishops' meeting declared.

The meeting here last weekend, was the seventh annual conference of the Catholic Inter-American Cooperation Program. It was characterized in the statement as "informal," and its conclusions were said to be "not binding" on participants.

The Latin bishops denied that there was resentment at the presence of 3,600 missionaries from the U.S. and 2,115 from Canada. But they said the missionaries' work must be more efficiently organized and aimed at "finding and forming local leaders."

Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia of Chiapas, Mexico, told his fellow prelates that Latin America's "new church" had decided to risk "incarnating itself totally in the culture, problems and hopes" of its peoples.

Out of the Latin bishops' 1968 meeting at Medellin, Colombia, he said, came a church committed to "liberating action" that will develop "the power to be found in people who are organized and aware of their rights."

The military and economic oligarchies feel, therefore, that "they have lost an ally," Bishop Ruiz observed.

The secretary general of the Latin American Bishops Council told delegates he thought there still was time

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Help Overseas Fund Pope Asks Youngsters:

New York — (NC) — Pope Paul VI appealed to the more than 5 million U.S. Catholic elementary and high school students to contribute generously during Lent to the 1970 American Catholic Overseas Aid Fund Appeal.

His appeal in an Ash Wednesday (Feb. 11) radio message, carried by the country's major networks, marked the opening phase of the 24th annual overseas aid appeal.

He reminded the students there are

"millions of boys and girls, in many countries of the world, who are poor, hungry, sick, without a home or shelter."

The Pontiff recalled his visit last year to Nigeria and spoke of the suffering that resulted from the Nigerian-Biafran civil war. He said more than 2 million persons, many of them children, died of hunger, but many more would have died "if American Catholics like you and your parents had not given generously for emergency aid."

The Pope said the generosity of U.S. Catholics "also consoled and relieved the poor and the sick in many other lands, such as Vietnam, Palestine and Latin America."

"And you have been so good, and so generous, that this relief work of American Catholics probably gives more help, to more people, than any other group in the world," the Pope said. "You have done a great deal, but much more still remains to be done."

In recent years contributions to the annual overseas aid fund during Lent by U.S. school children have exceeded more than \$1 million a year. The annual appeals are conducted under auspices of the U.S. bishops.

The 1970 appeal will be climaxed during the second phase of the campaign for adults with the traditional Laetare Sunday, March 8, collection, taken up in parishes throughout the country.



American Catholics Asked to Help Fill Bowls

American Catholics have been importuned to sacrifice during Lent in order to contribute to Mar. 15 collection for 24th annual American Catholic Overseas Aid Fund sponsored by American bishops. Photo shows missionary surrounded by hungry children in Nigeria-Biafra.

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Judging Continues In News Contest

A pile of entries from across the country were received by NC News Service in its "Good News Contest" and judging is nearly complete.

NC is offering a prize of \$100 for the best original account of a "good news" story by a reader. NC plans to announce the winner and honorable mentions in the Feb. 27 issue of the Courier-Journal.